

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13 HA-05
OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-06 /098 W
-----005874 161208Z /13

O 161125Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7114

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1403

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, MARCH 16, (#)

REF: : BEIRUT 1389 (DTG 151650Z MAR 78)

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER ISRAELI ATTACKS IN
THE CAPITAL AREA SINCE THE BOMBING OF AN NABI AL AWZAI
AROUND 1400 HOURS ON MARCH 15. ACCORDING TO REPORTS
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RECEIVED IN BEIRUT, THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING HAS
LESSENNED IN THE SOUTH WHERE THE ISRAELIS ARE CON-
SOLIDATING THEIR POSITIONS GIVING THEM CONTROL OF
ABOUT AN 8 KM BELT NORTH OF THE ISRAELI BORDER. THE
ISRAELIS ARE REPORTEDLY IN CONTROL OF NAKOURA,
AL IZZIYAH, AL HINNIYAH, YARIN, YARUN, BINT
JUBAYL, MARUN AR RAS, AY TARUN, AT TAYYIBAH,

MARJAYUN, KHIYAM AND IBIL AS SAQY AND BLATT. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT CONTINUING RESISTANCE IS AT RASHAYYA AL FUKHKHAR IN THE ARQUB.

2. ONE AMERICAN U.N. MILITARY OBSERVER WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND EVACUATED TO ISRAEL ON MARCH 14. THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER REPORTED AMERICAN CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THE FIGHTING.

3. LEBANON ON MARCH 15 LODGED A FORMAL PROTEST WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. IN A LETTER HANDED TO SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM, LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS GHASSAN TUEINI PROTESTED ISRAEL'S "NAKED AGGRESSION" HE ADDED THAT LEBANON WAS "NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN BASES IN SOUTH LEBANON", SINCE ISRAELI OBJECTIONS HAD PREVENTED THE ADF FROM ENTERING THE AREA AND RESTORING ORDER.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS ON MARCH 15 CALLED IN THE AMBASSADORS OF THE UNITED STATES, SOVIET UNION, BRITAIN, FRANCE AND CHINA, THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSED MEANS OF ENDING THE LATEST ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

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5. PRESIDENT SARKIS TOLD A CABINET MEETING MARCH 15 THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON HAD NO JUSTIFICATION, SINCE ISRAEL HAD "PREVENTED THE PRESENCE OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY TO THE SOUTH" AND THE ENTRY OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES (ADF) THERE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE CABINET ALSO FORMED A MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO HELP PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE RECENT FIGHTING. IN ADDITION, PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS AGAIN CONDEMNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION. (CORRECTION: HOSS ON MARCH 12 HAD SAID THAT "LEBANON IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED" IN ISRAEL. HE DID NOT REFER TO THE INCIDENT IN ISRAEL AS A "TERRORIST ATTACK" AS PORTED IN BEIRUT 1381.)

6. IN MORNING TOUR OF BEIRUT MARCH 16, EMBOFFS OBSERVED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO HOUSING IN THE AN NABI AL AWZAI AREA WHICH ISRAELIS BOMBED ON MARCH 15 (SEPTIL). ARMED FEDAYEEN WERE GUARDING THE AREA AS WELL AS THE PERIMETER OF SHATILA CAMP.

7. IN WEST BEIRUT, THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAS POSTPONED CEREMONIES MARKING KAMAL JUMBLATT'S DEATH FROM

MARCH 16 TO MAY 1, BUT CALLED FOR A GENERAL STRIKE
ON MARCH 16 NEVERTHELESS. POSSIBLY AS PART OF AN
EFFORT TO ENFORCE THE STRIKE, ARMED MILITIAMEN
APPEARED ON THE STREETS OF WEST BEIRUT. ARMED MEN IN
A CAR SHOT THE WINDOWS OUT OF TWO STORES ON
COMMODORE STREET IN THE HAMRA AREA WHICH HAD
REMAINED OPEN.
PARKER

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